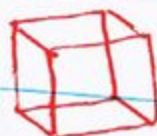


REMEMBER CRAIG LOUGHRIDGE

DEADLY CLASS

1988

#9



DIE MARCIS!



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Color Assists by Wes Craig • DEADLY CLASS created by Rick Remender & Wes Craig
Kids of the Black Hole © 2014 The Adolescents



WE HAVE NO
GOAT CHEESE. NO
COMPLAINING,
GILBERT!*

SOON I
WILL BUY YOU
A DURANGO
GOAT,
LETICIA!

JUÁREZ MEXICO 1979

FORGIVE
ME, MARIA.

GO BACK
TO BED.

DON'T WORRY,
SWEETNESS.

PAPA'S
GOING TO MAKE
EVERYTHING--

YOU'RE
TOO
LOUD.

PAPA...?

RUB



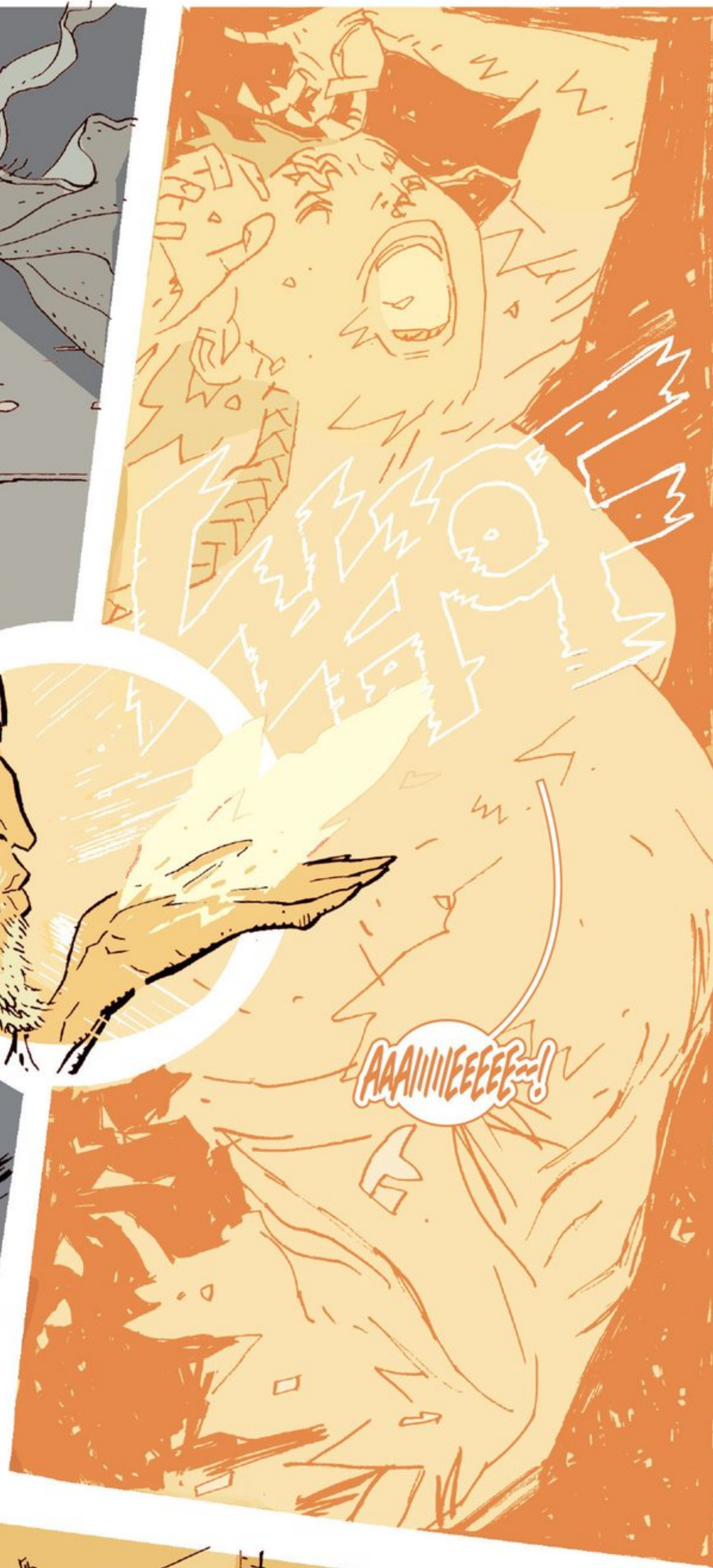
KNOCK
KNOCK



WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?











DO NOT
LOOK
AWAY!

IT IS
IMPORTANT
THAT YOU
ALL SEE.

IMPORTANT
YOU WITNESS
THE FATE OF ANY
MAN WHO
WOULD **STEAL**
FROM ME.



ME!

THE
BRINGER
OF ALL
THINGS
GOOD!



CLEAN
WATER, FOOD,
PROTECTION--
YOU HAD **NONE**
OF THIS BEFORE
ME.

IS **THIS**
HOW I AM
REPAID FOR MY
PHILANTHROPY?



DOES MY SON NOT
ALSO DESERVE FOOD
AND SHELTER?

WOULD YOU
TAKE THAT
FROM HIM?



PLEASE...

WHAT KIND
OF FATHER WOULD
I BE TO ALLOW A
RAT TO SNATCH
SUSTENANCE
FROM MY CHICO'S
MOUTH?



IT WAS SO
LITTLE!

ONLY
ENOUGH
TO PROVIDE
FOR MY
FAMILY.



YOUR
FAMILY IS
NO LONGER
A CONCERN,
THIEF.



BEHIND MY BACK YOU,
MY NEIGHBORS, CALL
ME "EL ALMA
DEL DIABLO".

TIME I
LIVED UP
TO IT.







DEADLY

RICK REMENDER
writer-co-creators-artist

WES CRAIG
colorist

LEE LOUGHRIDGE
letterer

RUS WOOTON
editor

SEBASTIAN GIRNER
editor

CLASSES

RICK REMENDER WES CRAIG
writer-co-creators-artist

LEE LOUGHRIDGE
colorist

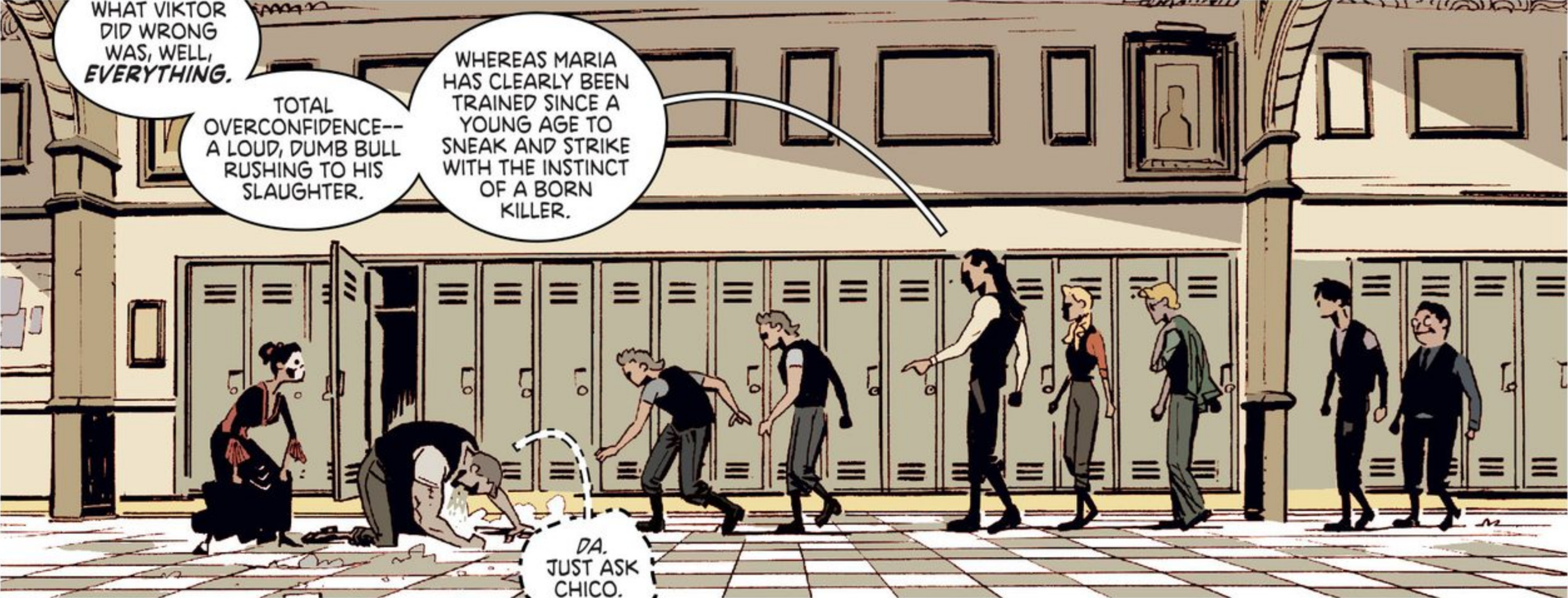
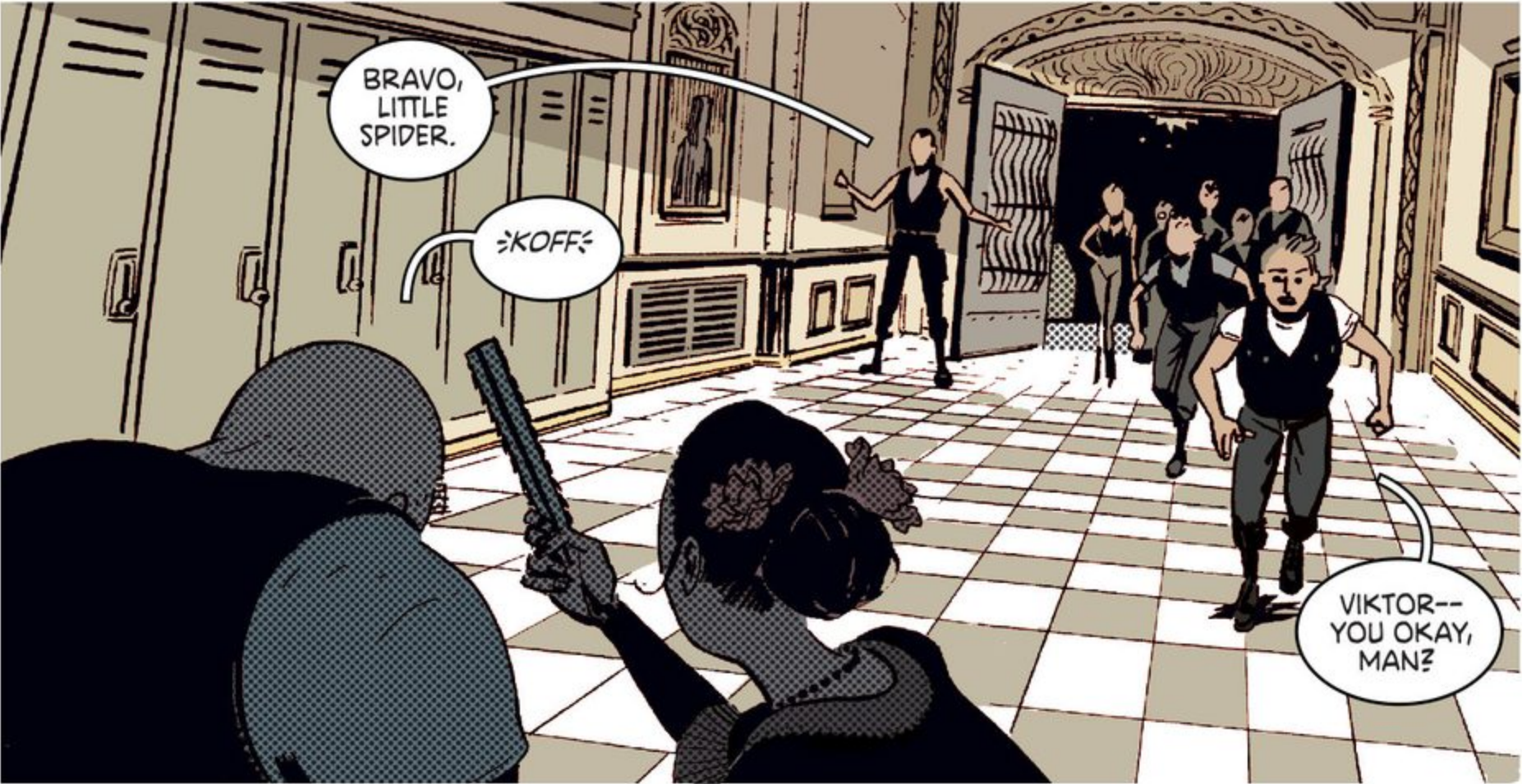
RUS WOOTON
letterer

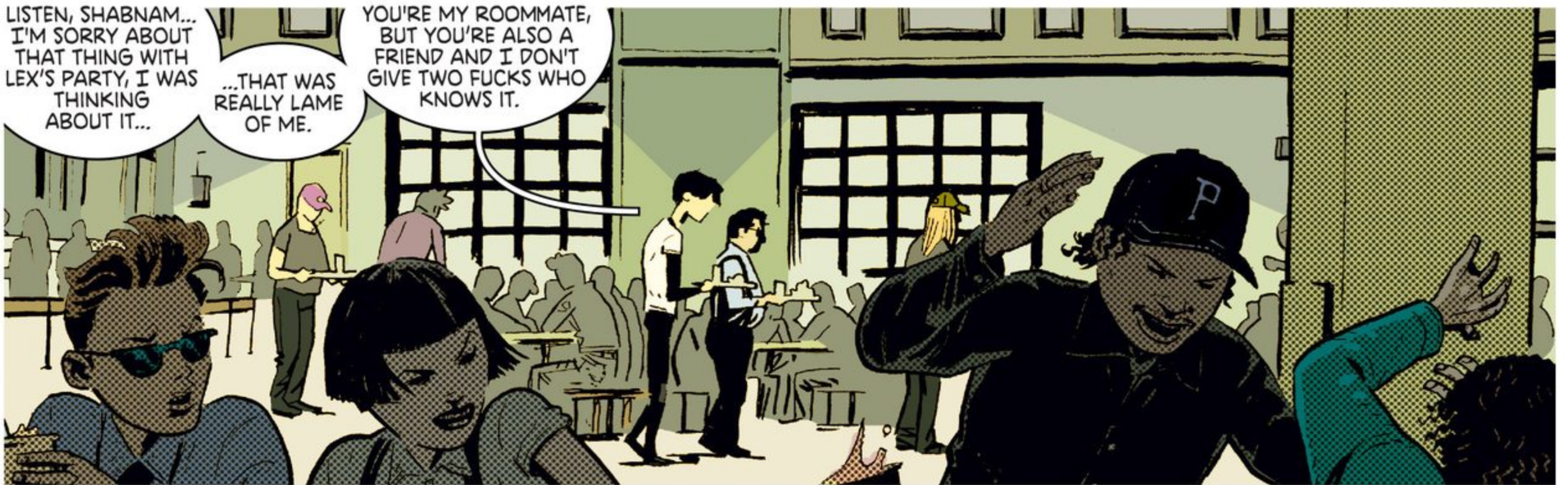
SEBASTIAN GIRNER
editor











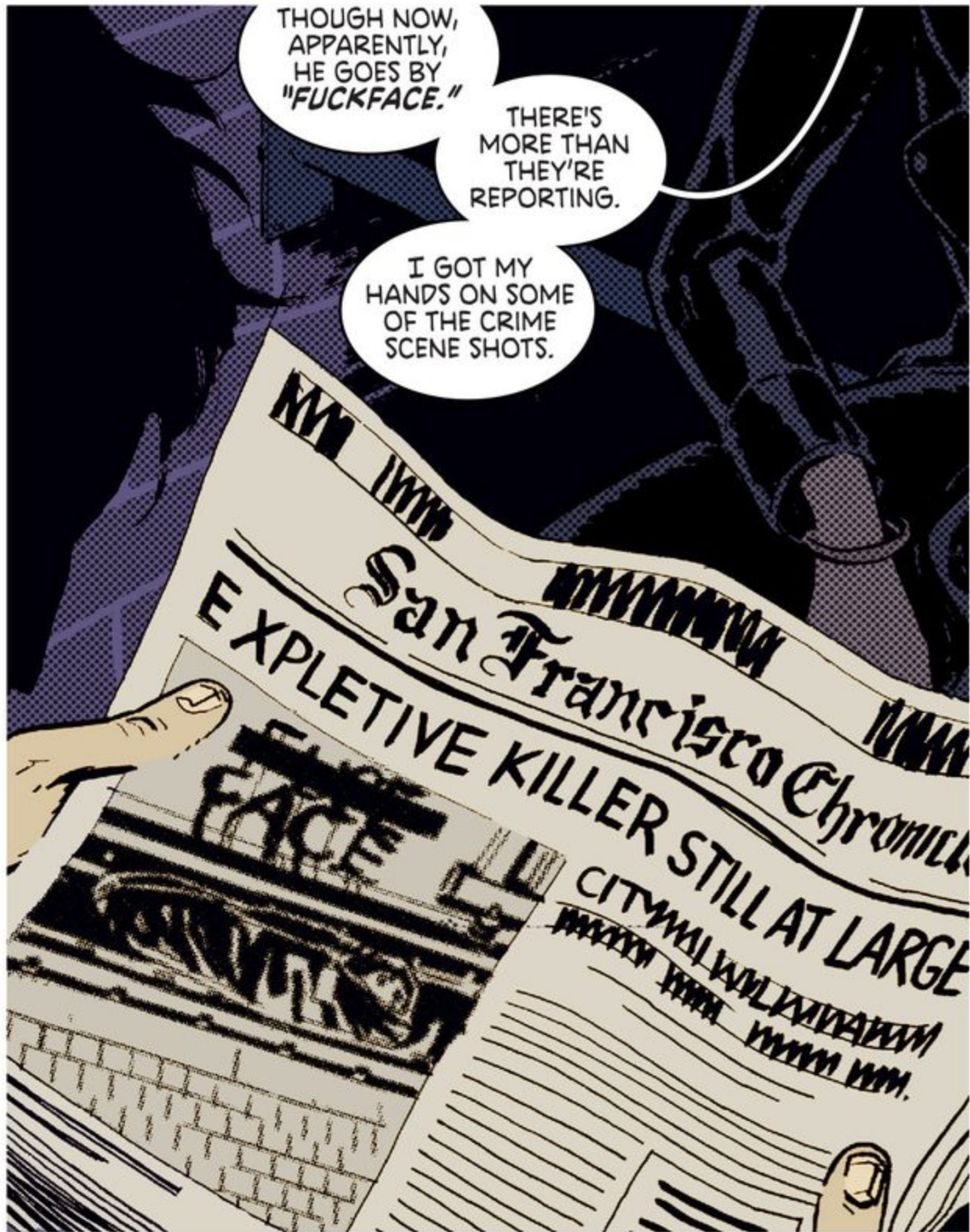


HEY, WHAT'S UP?

YOU'RE WHITE AS A REPUBLICAN.



IT'S YOUR FRIEND, CHESTER.



THOUGH NOW, APPARENTLY, HE GOES BY "FUCKFACE."

THERE'S MORE THAN THEY'RE REPORTING.

I GOT MY HANDS ON SOME OF THE CRIME SCENE SHOTS.



VICTIMS ARE ALL RACES, ALL TYPES. NOSES CUT OFF. POSED MASTURBATING.

HE DOESN'T DO IT HIMSELF-- SENDS HIS GANG. BAD DNA PECKERWOOD TYPES.

WE NEED TO SPEED THINGS UP.



JUST THE VEGAS CREW. CAN'T TRUST ANYONE ELSE.

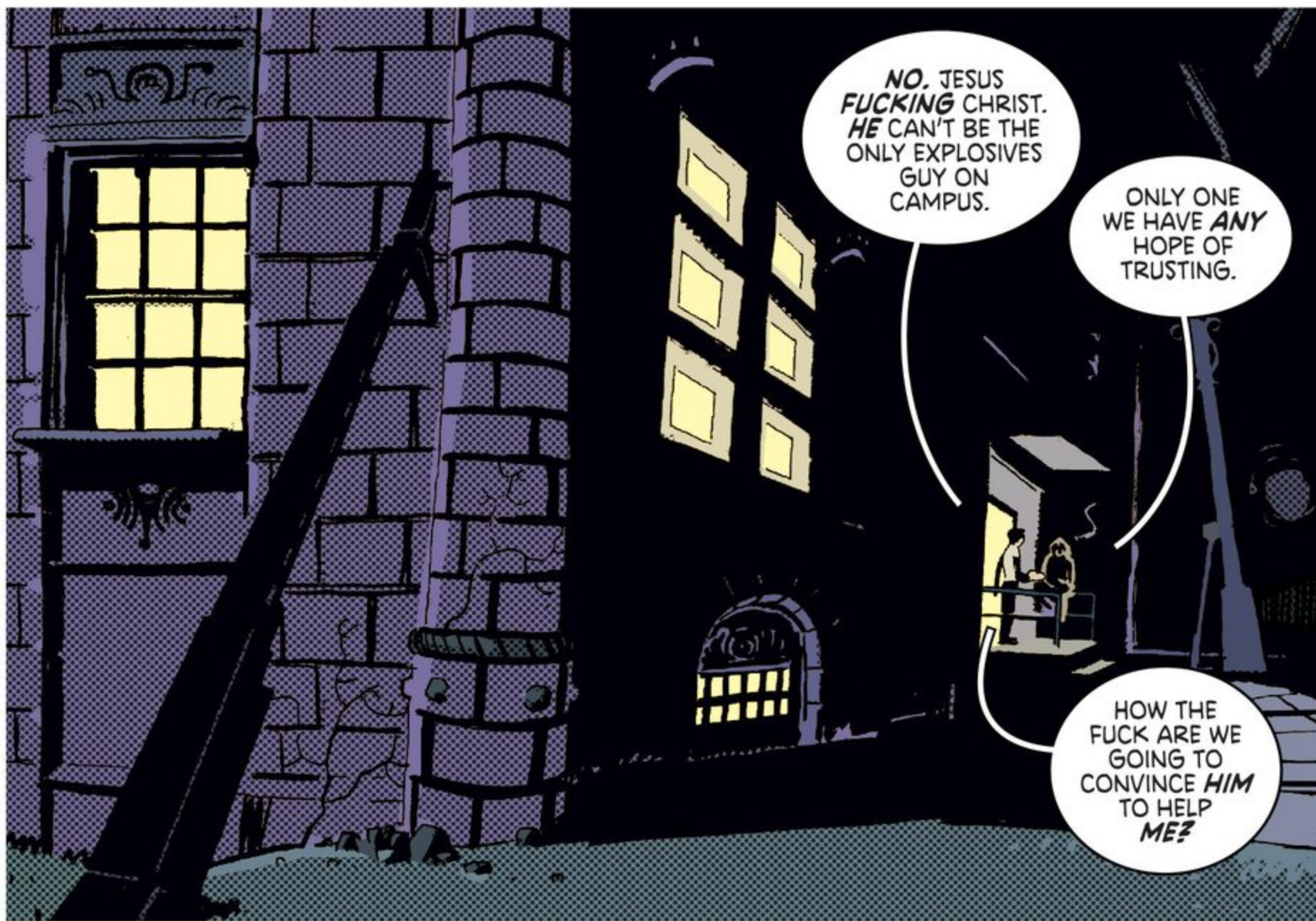
MARCUS, IF MASTER LIN FOUND OUT...

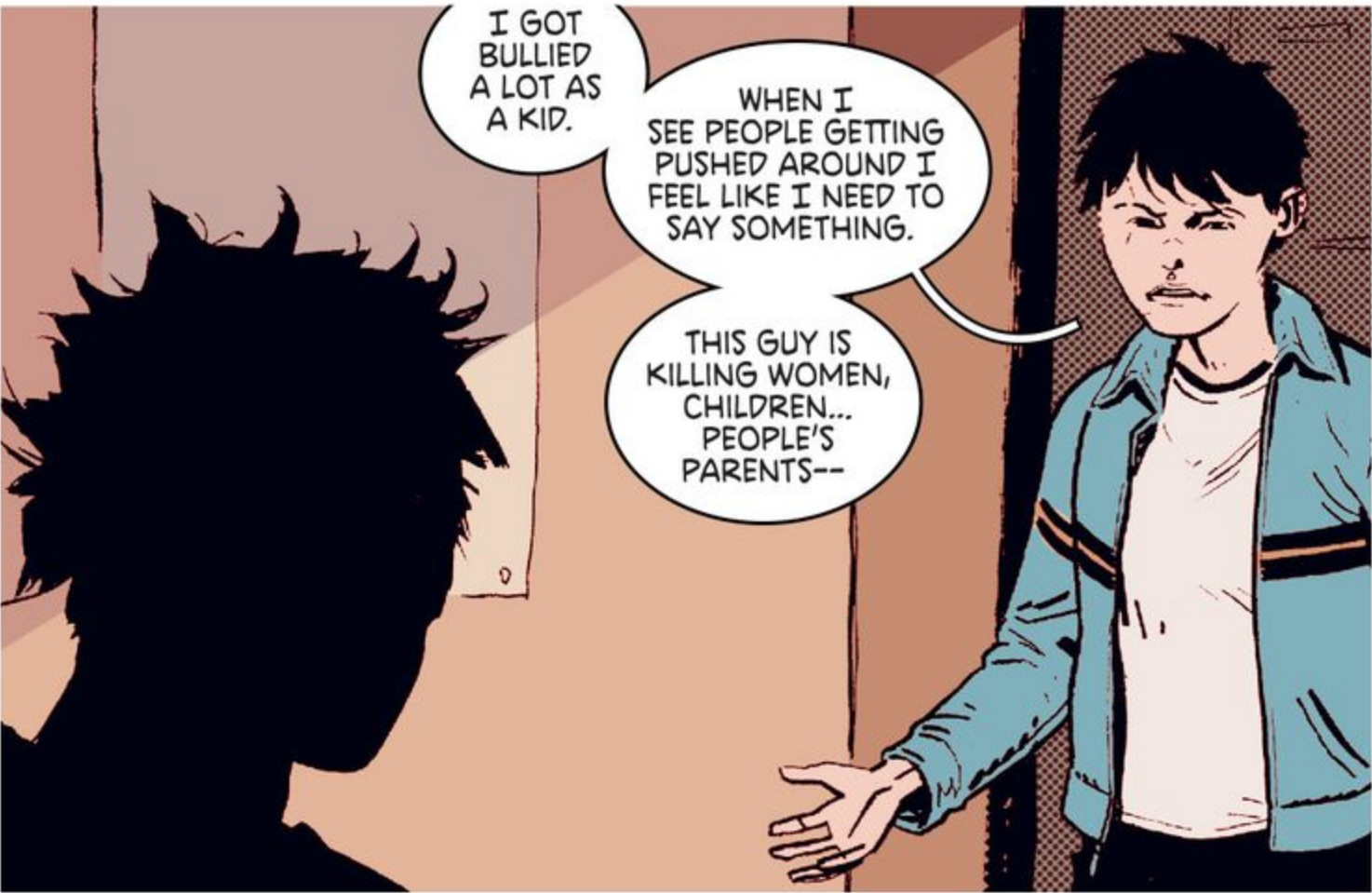


HE'D CONNECT IT WITH CHICO.

JESUS. WE STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT GETTING PAST THE ALARM SYSTEM IN HIS HOUSE-- THE PEEP CAMERAS.

THAT'S OUR NEXT STOP...







"--IT'S TIME TO PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR LOUD-FUCKING-MOUTH IS."

I *CAN'T* BELIEVE THAT WORKED.

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE THE PLEDGE.



MEN ALWAYS HAVE A HARD TIME MANIPULATING OTHER MEN.

IT MEANS YOU HAVE TO PLAY SUBMISSIVE. SHOW YOUR BELLY.



THE BEST WAY TO GET WHAT YOU WANT OUT OF SOMEBODY LIKE LEX IS PLAYING THEM AGAINST THEIR OWN EGO.



HOW CAN WE BE SURE HE WON'T TELL ANYBODY?

RIGHT NOW HE'S MORE FOCUSED ON PROVING TO US WHAT HE *CAN* DO.

ONCE WE'VE DONE IT HE'LL REALIZE HE CAN'T TELL ANYBODY OR MASTER LIN WILL CUT HIS DICK OFF.



FOR A SMART GUY YOU ASK SOME PRETTY STUPID QUESTIONS, MARCUS.

I NEVER SAID I WAS SMART.



WELL, THAT'S GOOD, BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT.

YOU'RE A REAL DUMMY.



HEY, YOU
KNOW
WHAT?

STEVEN
CANCELED ON
ME--I'VE GOT
TICKETS TO GO SEE
HOT GARBAGE AND
THE ADOLESCENTS
TONIGHT.



WHAT
DO YOU
SAY?



I... UH, I'D
LOVE TO, BUT
I'VE GOT TO
GET UP EARLY
TOMORROW.

THE COMIC SHOP IS
HAVING A HALF-PRICE
SALE AND IF I'M NOT
THERE TO OPEN UP IN
THE MORNING THE
NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS
ARE GOING TO TEAR
ME APART.



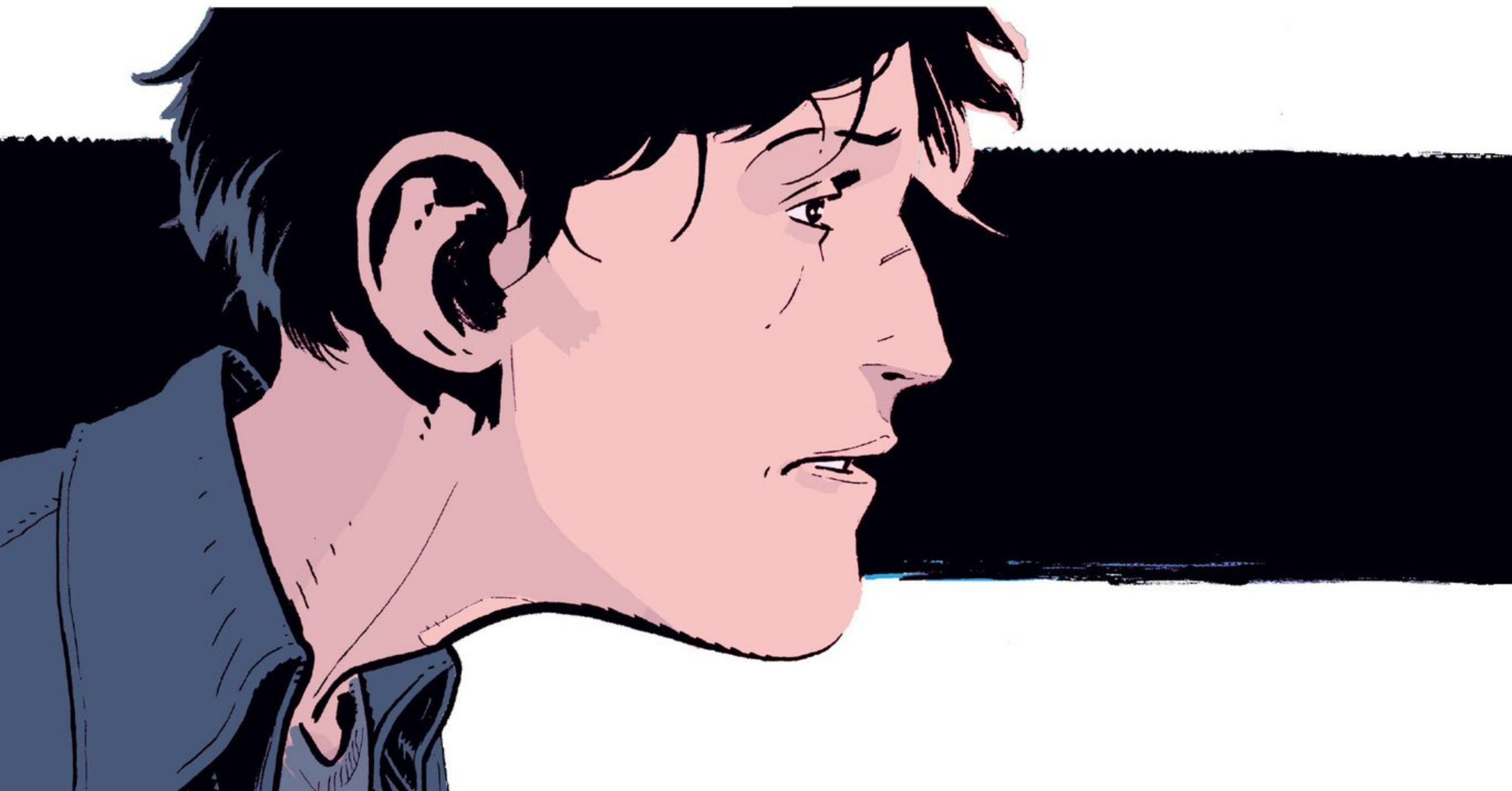
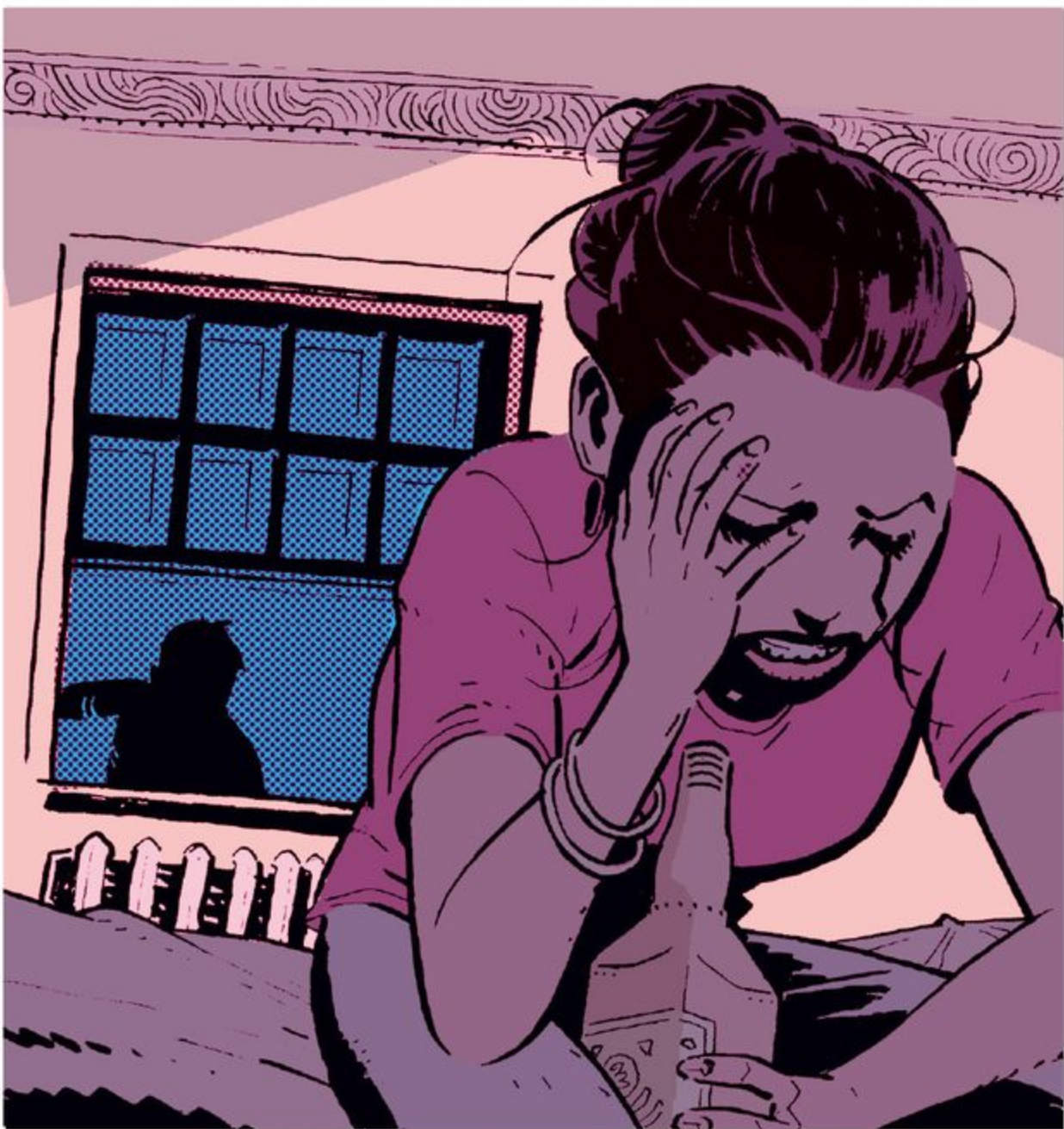
PLUS, I
SHOULD GO
SEE HOW
MARIA'S
DOING.

SHE SEEMED
REALLY UPSET
TODAY AFTER
CLASS.



WELL, DO
WHAT YOU
GOTTA DO,
ROMEO.

STRAIGHTEN
HER OUT BECAUSE
WE'RE GOING TO
NEED HER HELP TO
TAKE DOWN
FUCKFACE AND
HIS GANG
TOMORROW.





KIDS IN A
FAST LANE
LIVING FOR
TODAY!

NO RULES
TO ABIDE BY
AND NO ONE
TO OBEY!



SEX, DRUGS
AND FUN IS
THEIR ONLY
THOUGHT AND
CARE!

ANOTHER
SWIG OF BREW
ANOTHER
OVERNIGHT
AFFAIR!

HOUSE OF
DESTRUCTION
WHERE THE
LURKERS
ROAMED!



HOUSE THAT
BELONGED
TO ALL THE
HOMELESS
KIDS--

KIDS OF
THE BLACK
HOLE!



GLAD YOU
DECIDED TO
COME!

MARIA
WAS ASLEEP,
FIGURED
WHY NOT.

YOU EVER
SLAM DANCE
BEFORE?

DIDN'T EVEN
KNOW PEOPLE
STILL DID
THIS.



NOT REALLY
INTERESTED IN
GETTING BEAT UP
BY A BUNCH OF
STRANGERS TRYING
TO SELL HOW
AGGRESSIVE
THEY ARE.

ASSHOLE.

IT'S
NOT LIKE
THAT.



IT'S A PURE
EXPRESSION OF
THEIR ENTHUSIASM
AND JOY FOR
THE MUSIC.

IT LOOKS
VIOLENT BUT IT
ISN'T. IT'S PLAY-
FIGHTING.

IF YOU
LOOK
CLOSE--



"--IT'S A DANCE OF
CAMARADERIE AND
EXUBERANCE.

"IT'S THE DANCE OF THE
WEIRDOS AND FREAKS,
UNCORKING ALL OF THEIR
FRUSTRATION."



QUIT BEING SO
FUCKING JUDGMENTAL
OF EVERYTHING AND
YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY
HAVE SOME FUN FOR
A CHANGE.

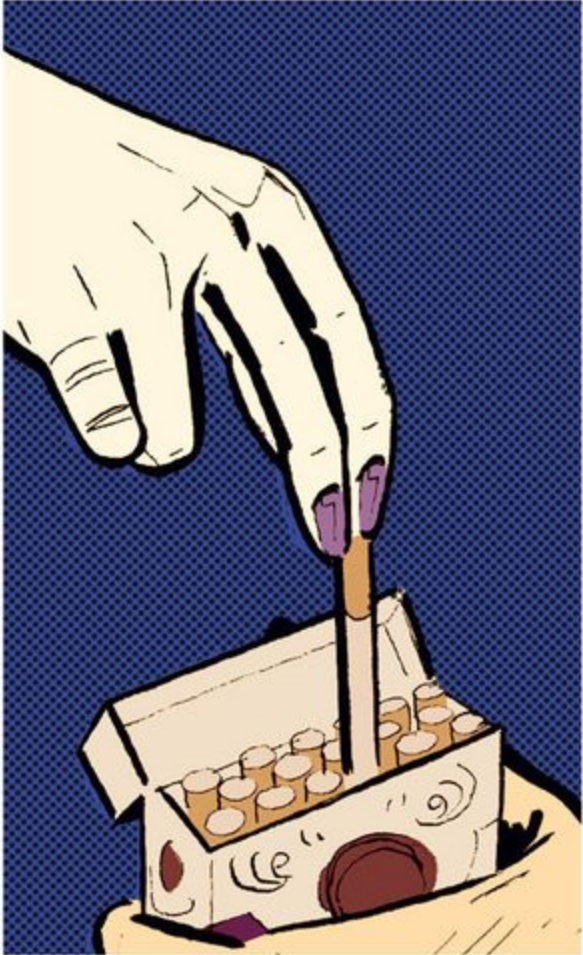
CONTRARY
TO WHAT
YOU SEEM TO
THINK--



--LIFE IS
SUPPOSED TO
ENJOYED.









FOR A SECOND I
THINK ABOUT MARIA.



WHAT AN ASSHOLE
I WAS TO LEAVE
HER THAT WAY.



FOR A SECOND.

BUT IT PASSES.



DEAD LETTER OFFICE

RR - It seems to me, looking back on high school, the one you had was seldom the one you wanted. Part of the nature of the age, the grass is always greener, few teenagers have any philosophical foundation by which to gauge these choices, and little to no real life experience from which to draw. As we start to learn more and more about Maria we also realize that we know nothing about Saya. Perhaps that is her allure to Marcus. He can paint any story he wants onto that blank canvas and imagine her to be his perfect girl. What she actually is... well, we'll get there.

We've received more mail for this series than anything I've ever done before. It's very gratifying. Keep sending in your thoughts, and we'll try to get all of them.

Hey guys,

HOLY SHIT ISSUE #7 WAS PACKIN' SOME REAL SWAGGER!!

Back from your break and you're just putting out one of the best comics there is.

So hip, so cool. Youthful. Invigorating, trashy and beautiful. Damn... That issue was ridiculously close to perfect. Not just the layout, but its timing, poise, and energy. I'm not sure how to exactly describe it. If it were a film it would win the Oscar for best editing, it transferred well. Know what I mean?

I put on *Meat Is Murder*, The Smiths album, after seeing a poster for them in Marcus' room. The scene in the comic shop was totally vibrant and made me wish I could have been there. The change of whoever's eye that was from before the toke, to after. The outfits of EVERYONE at the party..

We all know the relationship you're showing us, we all know the "Saya" of said relationship...the one we didn't have the balls to go after for fear of whatever consequence (not usually a gangster father) it might produce, but the little things here and there that kept us around with the over-protective one.

Guys, guys, I could go on and on

stroking you for all of these, things But I'd rather say this, don't stop. Please. Momentum. Blitzkrieg. Pedal to the fucking metal!

I'm not even saying that this issue was exciting and that you have to keep up some action-packed intensity because that isn't it at all, it was just REAL and ALIVE. It was something for us to connect with, and feel akin to.

What else is there out there other than our experiences and ourselves alone or with each other?

I'm sitting here at my crap job, awful shift, reading comics and writing to someone I have never met before, who could print my revealing words and embarrass me to thousands (millions?) of people...but that's better than not, and I wish I could do more to be a part of it all!

Ugh, I don't know dude. I'm really enjoying your books right now, and thank you for helping your artists get their work out there too because it means just as much, if not more sometimes (no offense) than the words. Jeez I was only thinking of this and *Black Science*...but there's *Low* too !!!

Just please keep rocking it man, and don't blow it either ;) you're doing so much for us right now, quantity, quality, and what, spiritually? Yeah, maybe that's what it is. I felt inspired reading that, and it's the spark I wish on so many others in this world.

Thomas

RR - Thank you, Thomas. If I allowed myself to feel happiness, your letter would probably lead to that emotion. Unfortunately, I only process negativity so I'll probably forget about all the nice things you said. Wes is pretty well-adjusted, maybe he'll read this and feel happy. I'll have to ask him what it's like.

Rick/Wes/Lee/Rus/Sebastian:

I'm reading DEADLY CLASS #1-8 when an officemate of mine comes up and says:

"Oh, cool. A comic book. Is (looks at the cover and the title)... Deadly Class good?"

Me: "Darn right it is. There aren't too many books out that that I look forward to reading month after month, and this is one of them."

Officemate: "So is it good enough to be a movie?"

Me. "Hell, I'd watch it several times and buy the DVD/Blu-Ray if and when it comes out. (muttering) Of course, they will need to stay faithful to the storyline..."

Officemate: "What is it about anyway?"

Me: "It's about a secret society of assassins... (cuts me off)"

Officemate: "Like *Wanted*?"

Me: "As I was saying it's about a secret society of assassins who have their own version of Hogwarts and who go *Reservoir Dogs*-like on each other."

Officemate: "WTF! This is better than Harry Potter already!"

So now you've got another reader.

Music while reading issues #1-8:

- *Welcome to the Jungle* - Guns N' Roses
- *Road to Nowhere* - Talking Heads
- *Master of Puppets* - Metallica
- *Teenage Riot* - Sonic Youth
- *Going Underground* - The Jam

Stay cool and keep the hits coming.

Rick O.

RR - Thanks for helping promote the book, Rick. Word-of-mouth is the best friend a creator-owned comic book has.

Man, where do I start?

I've been reading comics for roughly ten years now. I started in high school and never looked back. It was probably one of the only things that got me through it, and even to

this day, they help me keep my shit together.
But man oh man do I wish this book was around back then!

DEADLY CLASS is just something special; I fucking love this book! Every single month I cannot wait to get my hands on it! I've meant to send an email through ever since issue #1 just to say my thanks, and show my appreciation for what you do! Now I just finished issue #7, and I thought it was about time.

In all my years of reading, I've never stumbled across anything that even compares to the way I can relate to it and to the way it just makes me feel. I was a little different in high school and Marcus's journey just resonates with me and takes me back to the way I felt and the experiences I had back in those days, from all the different genres of people, to the punk / alternate music , drugs , girl problems , depression , self discovery, getting bullied and even to the point of hanging out at my local comic shop!

This book has everything that I went through (obviously excluding the maniac psychopath killers and school for assassins ha ha). The kick-ass art and great emotion-driven storytelling just keeps me coming back and telling everyone I know that either reads comics or doesn't that they need to check this out!

I can't praise it enough and thanks to everyone involved for making something so awesome and special. I'm looking forward to seeing what the future holds for Marcus and the rest of the gang at Kings Dominion, I'm hooked to till the last issue (which I hope never comes!)

Kind Regards,
All the way from Australia,

Jarrold Gowdy!

RR - Comic books got me through a lot of strange periods in my life as well. Up until about 15 or 16 when I discovered girls and drugs and drifted away for a time. Then, as a directionless 19-year-old trying to put his life back together after a few years of bad decisions, comic

books crept back in and gave me a purpose. I got a job in a comic book store, started working on my stories and drawing and really never stopped. All of those things you mention relating to comprise the soup that I soaked in for most of my young life. So I'm glad to hear that it's striking you as authentic. We don't plan on ending the series anytime soon so you can look forward to many more adventures with our gang of lunatics.

Mr. Remender,

The four sentences about depression at the beginning of issue #7 are the most succinct and true things I have ever read about the subject. I love the book, and I don't want to derail your letters section from a discussion on the work, but man, as someone who came through the other side of some major shadows - you nailed it. Keep going, keep going.

Jon S.

RR - We will. And hopefully we can help some of these poor characters come out the other side of the black dog.

Dear, Rick and the DEADLY CLASS team,

I'll put the depressing bullshit on front street, so here it is. I'm a 27 year old with a long and boring medical history, and recently my doctors have told me I've not got many years left to live. I won't go into all the science-y bullshit but basically my body has only a few years of living left in it before it starts shutting down, and after that: goodnight, nurse. I've totally come to terms with it, so I'm writing this to express my gratitude for this beautiful work of art you've allowed me to enjoy.

Your book is the best THING I've experienced in years. I love it so fucking much. The way you write so evocatively about depression, relationships, drug use, love, friends and family, it all shows that you've lived a life. It reads very truthfully (especially the LSD trip...),

and the Kings Dominion High School for Deadly Arts, Marcus and his friends, are a prism you're using to show what it feels like to be a teenager, a fuck up, and most importantly, to be alive.

I cherish this book, I love it to death, but it's bittersweet every time I finish that final page because it's another month until the next one, and right now a month feels like a year. I really hope I stick around long enough to reach the end of the story. It sure is an incentive to grab life by the balls and scream "I AIN'T GOING NOWHERE YET, BITCH!"

I understand if you don't print this, it's a very morbid letter! But just now that your book serves as a reminder to me for how fucking awesome it is to be alive, and be thankful for every day you have. I can't put into words how much this book resonates with me (I'm on a ton of drugs, and my brain feels like cotton candy). Yes, life can punch you in the face, but DEADLY CLASS shows even IF you're going through some shit, with a girl, with drugs, with death, remember that whatever you're feeling...at least you're feeling.

Thank you for Marcus Lopez and the Deadly Class gang.

Lots of love,

Rob

RR - Rob, there are no words. What can anyone say to someone in your situation? "I'm sorry" is meaningless rote civility. Anything I can say feels hollow. I hope that in the years left you can find a lifetime worth of joy. You sound like someone who wouldn't settle for anything less. If our comic book can add to that joy in any way, it makes the work feel worthwhile. Thank you for your letter. Hearing your enthusiasm and fearlessness while confronting your situation has inspired me at a time I desperately needed it. So, on that front, we're even.

See you in 30 days for the raid on Fuckface Manor,
Rick

NEXT ISSUE

REMENDER • CRAIG • LOUGHRIDGE

DEADLY CLASS



1988

#10

\$3.50

RUMBLE

**So, a warrior scarecrow god
walks into a bar...**

**JOHN ARCUDI
JAMES HARREN
DAVE STEWART**



DECEMBER 2014
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